



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Reply To: OWW-135

Geoffrey Parker
634 K Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Thomas E. Meacham
9500 Prospect Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Mr. Parker and Mr. Meacham:

This letter is in response to your May 21, 2010 letter to Col. Reinhard Koenig, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), and John Pavitt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), requesting a meeting with EPA and the ACE to discuss your six tribal clients potential request to be cooperating agencies on any Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Pebble Mine. Per your letter you are representing the Nondalton Tribal Council, Koliganek Village Council, New Stuyahok Traditional Council, Ekwok Village Council, Curyung Tribal Council, and Levelock Village Council. You also represent the Alaska Independent Fisherman's Marketing Association and Trout Unlimited, Inc.

As stated in your letter, the Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) has announced that they would not be ready to file permit applications until at least 2011. Therefore, currently there are no pending applications that trigger formal decisions to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regarding the EIS lead or cooperating agencies for this project. However, we are willing to meet with you and the tribes you represent to discuss the questions described in your letter; namely (1) that the tribes may be interesting in being cooperating agencies and need to understand the resources needed for that undertaking; and (2) your clients may request that EPA and the ACE be joint-lead agencies in developing the EIS. Your letter also points out that the tribes have unique knowledge of subsistence and traditional knowledge and can offer a valuable perspective on EIS alternatives. EPA has found tribal involvement to be beneficial in these same issues in EISs we have developed in Alaska such as the Red Dog Mine Aqqaaluk SEIS (October 2009) and the Chuitna EIS, that is currently under development.

I understand that Dave Casey with the ACE is taking the lead in setting up a meeting to discuss these issues. We plan to attend the meeting and look forward to the discussion. Meanwhile, feel free to contact me at (206) 553-0979 or mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov should you have questions regarding this letter or the proposed Pebble Project.

Sincerely,

Patty McGrath
Regional Mining Coordinator

